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2 1. A system for managing transactions, comprising:

3 a first interface for communicating first information regarding at least
4 one payment source;

5 a second interface for communicating second information regarding at
6 least one payee account; and

7 a processor, communicating with the first interface and the second
8 interface, the processor selectably directing a transmission of funds from the at
9 least one payment source to the at least one payee account based on an
10 optimization determination.

11 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the optimization determination
12 comprises a calculation of at least one of payment source data, payee account
13 data, payment schedule data, payment type data and privacy data.

14 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one payment source
15 comprises at least one of a direct deposit account, a source credit account, a
16 mortgage account, a securities account, a money market account, a micro
17 payment account, an overdraft account and a stored value account.

18 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one payee account
19 comprises at least one of a utility account, a mortgage account, a payee credit
20 account, and a contribution account.

21 5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a storage module,
22 communicating with the processor, the storage module storing at least one of
23 the data on the optimization determination, data on the at least one payment
24 source account, and data on the at least one payee account.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first interface and the
2 second interface comprises a telephone connection.

3 7. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first interface and the
4 second interface comprises a network connection.

5 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the network connection comprises a
6 remote client from which a user may communicate transaction instructions.

7 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the remote client comprises at least one
8 of a computer, a network-enabled cellular telephone, a portable digital assistant,
9 a paging device, and a set-top box.

10 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the user comprises at least one of a
11 consumer, a business entity and a government entity.

12 11. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first interface and the
13 second interface comprises a desktop graphical user interface directly
14 communicating with the processor.

15 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the processor performs an optimization
16 on a transaction carried out according to the transaction instructions.

17 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the optimization comprises at least one
18 of minimizing a cost variable, fulfilling a transaction schedule, minimizing a
19 payment penalty, maximizing a float of the at least one source account,
20 ensuring an affiliation between the payment source and the payee account,
21 maximizing security, maximizing reliability, minimizing risk, fulfilling a
22 contractual obligation, maximizing volume discounts, aggregating a transaction
23 amounts, maximizing a transaction amount and maximizing available bonus
24 awards.

24 21. A method for managing transactions, comprising:

1 a) communicating first information regarding at least one payment
2 source;

3 b) communicating second information regarding at least one payee
4 account;

5 c) performing an optimization determination for a transaction from the
6 at least one payment source; and

7 d) selectably directing a transmission of funds from the at least one
8 payment source to the at least one payee account based on the optimization
9 determination.

10 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the optimization determination
11 comprises a step e) of calculating at least one of payment source data, payee
12 account data, payment schedule data, payment type data and privacy data.

13 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one payment source
14 comprises at least one of a direct deposit account, a source credit account, a
15 mortgage account, a securities account, a money market account, a micro
16 payment account, an overdraft account and a stored value account.

17 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one payee account
18 comprises at least one of a utility account, a mortgage account, a payee credit
19 account, and a contribution account.

20 25. The method of claim 21, further comprising a step of f) storing at least
21 one of the data on the optimization determination, data on the at least one
22 payment source account, and data on the at least one payee account.

23 26. The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of step a) and step b)
24 comprises a step of g) communicating via telephone connection.

1 27. The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of step a) and step b)
2 comprises a step of h) communicating via a network connection.

3 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the network connection comprises a
4 remote client from which a user may communicate transaction instructions.

5 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the remote client comprises at least
6 one of a computer, a network-enabled cellular telephone, a portable digital
7 assistant, a paging device, and a set-top box.

8 30. The method of claim 27, wherein the user comprises at least one of a
9 consumer, a business entity and a government entity.

10 31. The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of step a) and step b)
11 comprises a step of i) communicating with the processor directly via a desktop
12 graphical user interface.

13 32. The method of claim 21, further comprising a step of j) performing a
14 further optimization on a transaction.

15 33. The method of claim 21, wherein the step c) of performing an
16 optimization determination comprises a step k) of performing at least one of
17 minimizing a cost variable, fulfilling a transaction schedule, minimizing a
18 payment penalty, maximizing a float of the at least one source account,
19 ensuring an affiliation between the payment source and the payee account,
20 maximizing security, maximizing reliability, minimizing risk, fulfilling a
21 contractual obligation, maximizing volume discounts, aggregating a transaction
22 amounts, maximizing a transaction amount and maximizing available bonus
23 awards.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the optimization comprises a step of 1)
2 minimizing a cost variable, and the cost variable comprises at least one of a
3 transaction cost charged to a payment initiator and an internal cost absorbed by
4 a payment enabler.

5 35. The method of claim 21, wherein the optimization determination
6 comprises utilization of third party associations and payment providers.

7 36. The method of claim 35, wherein members of the third party
8 associations are systematically identified by at least one of real time calls to the
9 third party association, and real time calls to a datastore containing third party
10 association member data which is periodically updated.

11 37. The method of claim 21, wherein the optimization determination
12 comprises a systematic identification and internal settlement for closed loop
13 payments in which the payment source and the at least one payee account
14 reside within one entity.

15 38. The method of claim 34, wherein an expense reduction resulting from
16 optimization of the cost variable is realized by at least one of the payment
17 enabler and the payment initiator.

18 39. The method of claim 22, wherein a payment initiator is presented with
19 at least two mechanisms that meet the payment schedule data and associated
20 costs of the at least two mechanisms, and the payment initiator is permitted to
21 manually choose an optimal method of transfer.

22 40. The method of claim 21, wherein the transmission of funds comprises a
23 currency conversion.

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- 1 41. A system for managing transactions, comprising:
2 means for communicating first information regarding at least one
3 payment source;
4 means for communicating second information regarding at least one
5 payee account; and
6 optimization means, communicating with the means for communicating
7 first information and the means for communicating the second information, the
8 optimization means selectably directing a transmission of funds from the at
9 least one payment source to the at least one payee account based on an
10 optimization determination.

09935900-110601